



## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

**What:** Environmental Health Committee

**When:** November 7, 2019

**Attending:** Board staff Stuart Glasoe, Chris Trent, and Alex Montaña; Department of Health staff Derek Pell, Lauren Jenks, Joe Laxson, Theresa Phillips, Michael Dixel, Jeremy Simmons, Mike Means, Tami Thompson, Mike Ellsworth, and Barb Morrissey. Three members of the public also attended.

**Participating by phone:** Board members Keith Grellner, Jim Jeffords, Fran Bessermin and Jill Wood; Board staff Michelle Davis and Kelie Kahler; Department of Health staff Ron Wohrle.

### Summary Notes:

#### Updates

- Stuart Glasoe mentioned the following personnel changes: Lauren Jenks serving as Assistant Secretary of Environmental Public Health and Laura Johnson serving as Director of the Office of Environmental Public Health Sciences at the Washington Department of Health; Jill Wood, Island County Environmental Health Director, serving on the Board and the Environmental Health Committee; and Chris Trent serving as new policy staff for the Board.
- Stuart noted that the Board withdrew the original CR-101 and filed a new CR-101 for the Keeping of Animals rule, WAC 246-203-130, on October 4, 2019. Interested parties will be notified when the filings publish in the Washington State Register.

#### November Board Meeting Preparation

- CR-101 Filing, Chapter 246-500 WAC, Handling of Human Remains—Stuart explained that passage of ESSB 5001 in the 2019 legislative session legalized two new methods of human disposition, alkaline hydrolysis and natural organic reduction. Regulation of these facilities and practices falls under authority of the Department of Licensing's Funeral and Cemetery Board. However, concerns and questions regarding by-products of the methods and possible exposure to communicable

diseases are more appropriately addressed under authority of the Board. As such, Michelle Davis directed staff to file a CR-101 to initiate rulemaking to explore such issues and to consider revisions to chapter 246-500 WAC.

- Rulemaking Update, Chapter 246-272A WAC, On-Site Sewage Systems—Jeremy Simmons and Michael Dexel of the Department of Health updated the Board on the status and timeline of this rulemaking project, and previewed the upcoming presentation on the draft rule. Key issues include recommended requirements for local management plans, property transfer inspections, and minimum lot size and minimum land area. Mr. Simmons briefly mentioned other issues and ongoing work with environmental health directors on the draft rule. Next steps include a meeting with the rule revision committee in December and release of the proposed rule for public comment in summer 2020.
- Rulemaking Petition, WAC 246-100-197, Rabies-Measures to Prevent Human Disease—Lauren Jenks of the Department of Health summarized the rulemaking petition received by the Board to revise rabies control requirements in WAC 246-100-197 to provide a medical exemption for vaccination of dogs when contraindicated based on the animal's health. She noted that the rule was last updated in 2017 to align with the 2016 Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control. The matter is not addressed in the compendium or in the rule. The Department plans to recommend to the Board that it not initiate rulemaking but instead direct staff to work with the Department, the Veterinarian Board of Governors, and the Washington State Veterinary Medical Association to clarify policy and educate veterinarians on rabies vaccination practice in such situations. Chair Grellner asked Board staff to follow up with legal counsel regarding veterinarian discretion administering vaccinations in such situations under language of WAC 246-100-197.
- Rulemaking Update, Chapter 246-290 WAC, Group A Public Water Supplies—Lauren Jenks and Mike Means of the Department of Health previewed the upcoming presentation. Ms. Jenks explained that she will reintroduce the topic and reset context for Board members. Mr. Means briefly summarized recommendations in the forthcoming draft rule on PFAS standards and corresponding changes to state action levels (SALs) for PFAS chemicals and other unregulated drinking water contaminants. Stuart noted that the presentation will include a recommendation for Board consideration to file a CR-101 to update chapter 246-390 WAC, Laboratory Certification and Data Reporting, in conjunction with revisions to chapter 246-290 WAC. Release of the draft rule will include public presentations in Tacoma, Mount Vernon, and Spokane in December. Staff are aiming to complete work on the rule in 2020. Board member Wood asked about laboratory capacity and readiness to accommodate the analytical demands associated with the new work. She also recommended including copies of the draft rule in Board packets for the upcoming meeting.

**Next Steps:**

- The Environmental Health Committee will likely next meet in late December in advance of the January Board meeting.

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